Statement-II

Steps taken by the Government to check crimes against women

1. The Dowry Prohibition Act, 1961 was amended in 1984 and 1986 to make provisions more stringent and effective.

2. The Indian Penal Code, the Criminal Procedure Code, 1973 and the Indian Evidence Act, 1872 have been amended by the Cirminal Law (Second Amendment) Aet, 1983 to deal effectively with cases of cruelty to married women.

3. Standing instructions have been issued for investigations of dowry death cases by the officer not below the rank of Deputy Superintendent of Police. The post-mortem is to be done by a team of two doctors and disposal of the dead body is not to be allowed without post-mortem.

4. Instructions have been issued to the State Governments from time to time to take effective action for prevention and detection of crimes against women.

5. The Department of Women & Child Development have also taken measures for removal of flaws in the existing legislation pertaining to women. A National Commission has been set up and assistance is being given to organisations involved in the uplift of women.

Orchid Society of Arunachal Pradesh

3497. SHRI NYODEK YONGGAM : Will the MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Orchid Society of Arunachal Pradesh has identified vast numbers of orchids which are not found in other parts of India ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) whether the Society has earned popularity in orchid gardening and preservation of ecological balance among the orchid lovers ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Information regarding the number of species identified by the Orchid Society of Arunachal Pradesh is not available. However according to the Botanical Survey of India which is the nodal agency for surveys on the flora of India about 410 orchid species have been found so far in Arunachal Pradesh out of which less than 25 species are endemic to the State.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Impact of environment policy on development aid flow

3498. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government attention has been drawn to the news item captioned "Lack of environment policy block development aid flow" appearing in the 'Economic Times' New Delhi dated the 24th February, 1992 ;

(b) if so, what are the salient features of the recommendations/observations of the core group in the Agriculture Ministry on the lack of comprehensive policy or legislation on environment, which is likely to block the flow of developmental assistance from major donor countries ; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) The Ministry of Agriculture has not forwarded any report or recommendations of any core group set up by it as mentioned in the news-item. Policy and legislative framework for environment protection is already in existence in India. There is no question of the flow of development assistance being blocked for the lack of environment policy in the country.

3499. [*Transferred to the 30th March, 1992*]

Illegal felling of trees of reserved Forests in Darjeeling Hill Area

3500. SHRI RATNA BAHADUR RAI : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that due to the rampant and illegal fellings of trees a large chunk of Reserved Forest in Darjeeling Hill areas has been damaged ;

(b) if so, what is the total area so damaged ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to check the further damage ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI RANGARAJAN KUMARAMANGALAM) : (a) and (b) There has been no concentrated illegal felling of trees over large chunk of forests. However, stray felling of trees are noticed in a sporadic manner over an area of 14.52 sq. kms. of forests in Darjeeling Hills, as reported by the Government of West Bengal.

(c) The following steps are being taken by State Government to check the deforestation :—

(A) *Legal Steps :*

(i) Strict implementation of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 and amendments;

(ii) Promulgation of West Bengal Forest (Establishment and Regulation of Saw Mills and other Wood Based Industries) Rules, 1982 for exercising stricter control on saw mills ;

(iii) The Indian Forest Act (West Bengal Amendment 1988), 1927 providing for stringent measures.

(B) *Steps for mobilisation of people's support :*

(i) Strengthening of Forest protection forces with improved communication facilities, arms and ammunition ;

(ii) Formation of village Forest Protection Committees ;

(iii) Keeping liaison with Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council ;

(iv) Generating employment through implementation of various schemes of afforestation.

Thurst areas for abatement of Pullution

3501. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state whether Government have identified main thrust areas for abatement of pollution in